

## Express News Gardening Tasks

Distribute 04-02-2020

- As the winter annuals decline in the heat replace them with the summer annuals. Consider pentas, begonias, caladium, and coleus in the shade and zinnias, cosmos, -----, moss roses, and purslane in the sun. The summer annuals have a varying degree of drought tolerance with vinca being most tolerant.
- Eggplant, okra, peppers and tomatoes are tolerant of the heat and can be planted now. All require full sun. Peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes grow very well in containers as well as raised beds.
- Recycle your live oak leaves as a mulch or as raw material in the compost pile. They are even valuable if they are left to decompose on the lawn and in the shrub border where they return nutrients to the soil. Speed up their decomposition on the lawn by mowing them to smaller pieces.
- If you want your wildflowers to naturalize, they need to be allowed to mature and drop their seed. Resist mowing the plants down until the seeds are produced and scattered.